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Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 03076 292033Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 AGRE-00 DHA-02
CAB-02 DOTE-00 FAA-00 /066 W
----------292134Z 033570 /75-70
R 291627Z MAR 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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DEPT ALSO FOR AID/AFR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID BC EEC LT XJ
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSSION AID PLANS TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: (A) GABORONE 741, (B) STATE 66483, (C) GABORONE 696,
(D) 76 EC BRUSSELS A-541, (E) EC BRUSSELS A-067,
(F) 76 EC BRUSSELS 11728

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS HANDLING EC AID ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BROUGHT THE MISSION UP-TO-DATE ON THEIR PLANS IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND. THE EC IS CONSIDERING ADDTIONAL AID PROJECTS IN THE REGION,
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 03076 292033Z

SEVERAL OF WHICH MAY OVERLAP WITH AID PLANS. END SUMMARY.

2. EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS IN CHARGE OF EC AID ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA TELL US THAT THE EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMITTEE HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO CO-FINANCING WITH THE US THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE BOT-ZAM ROAD. AS INDICATED IN REFS. A AND B, THE EC WOULD PRO-

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VIDE ABOUT 10 MILLION RANS (ABOUT $11.2 MILLION) FOR
THE PAVING OF THE ROAD. THE US WOULD PAY FOR THE
DESIGN AND SUPERVISORY COSTS. THE EC HOPES TO BEGIN
COMMITTING THESE FUNDS BY MID-YEAR.

3. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS
OF A RECENT COMMISSION MISSION TO BOTSWANA.
COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON ASSURED THE GOB THAT THE COMMISSION
INTENDED TO MAINTAIN THE CURRENT 90 PERCENT REDUCTION
IN THE EC LEVY ON BOTSWANA BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS FOR
THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR. (SEE REF B) GOB OFFICIALS
WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED WITH EC EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE
UNIVERSITY OF BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND (UBS). PLEDGES
FROM THE UK, CANADA, THE EC AND PERHAPS THE US, AMOUNT
TO $10-12 MILLION, OF WHICH THE EC SHARE WILL BE 3.5
MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT (MUA). COMMSSION OFFICIALS
EXPECT A CONTRIBUTION FROM THE US OF ABOUT $2.5
MILLION AND THE FRG AND NETHERLANDS WILL LIKELY
FURNISH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF PERSONNEL. GOB
OFFICIALS RAISED THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE EC MIGHT
HELP DEVELOP A NORTHERN MEAT PACKING PLANT AND MARKET
AT SUA. COMMISSION OFFICIALS HAVE HEARD THAT THE US
ISCONSIDERING FINANCING OF THIS PROJECT. THEY WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING CONFIRMATION OF THIS.

4. LESOTHO: COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THE EC IS CON-
SIDERING ASSISTING A ROAD PROJECT IN LESOTHO, WHICH
MAY OVERLAP WITH USAID PLANS. IT PLANS TO SET ASIDE
$1 MILLION TO UPGRADE THE ROAD FROM QACHAS-NEK TO
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QUTHING, A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 200 KILOMETERS. THE EC
WOULD FINANCE THE DESIGN STUDY AND AID HOPEFULLY WOULD
PAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION COSTS.

5. GOL OFFICIALS ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY AID
TO HELP WITH THE REFUGEES FROM SOUTH AFRICA. THE EC
IS CONSIDERING ESTABLISHING A REGULAR FOOD AID PROGRAM
OF ABOUT 2,000 MT OF CEREALS AND BUTTEROI EACH YEAR.
THE GOL ALSO ASKED FOR ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING A NEW
HALL AT THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY. THE EC MIGHT CON-
SIDER THIS AS A REGIONAL PROJECT. THE GOL IS ALSO
SEEKING TO EXPAND STABEX TO INCLUDE MOHAIR AND WOOL.

6. SWAZILAND: COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THAT GOS
AUTHORITIES HAVE ASKED FOR EC REGIONAL FINANCING OF A
VETERINARY PROJECT ALONG THE MOZAMBIQUE BORDER. THIS
PROJECT WOULD CREAT A SANITARY CORDON TO IMMUNIZE
CATTLE COMING ACROSS THE BORDER. MOZAMBIQUE HAS
INDICATED A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND THE EC IS

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CONSIDERING PROVIDING 0.5 MUA FOR THE PROJECT. IT ALSO
IS TAKING UP A GOS REQUEST TO FINANCE AS A REGIONAL
PROJECT A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF THE SWAZILAND-MOZAMBIQUE
RAILROAD AND A PROGRAM TO TRAIN TECHNICIANS INVOLVED
WITH RAILROADS. THESE OFFICIALS ADD THAT MOZAMBIQUE
CONTINUES TO SHOW ANINTEREST IN THE LOME CONVENTION
AND GOM OFFICIALS HAVE DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF
APPLYING FOR ACCESSION NEXT YEAR.

7. REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL PROJECT: THE NEWLY CREATED
EC/ACP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER IS PROMOTING A
PRIVATE VENTURE TO DEVELOP A REGIONAL AIR FREIGHT
SERVICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EUROPEAN INVESTORS ARE
CONTEMPLATING ESTALISHING SUCH A SERVICE CENTERED IN
LUSAKA WITH FEEDER AIR SERVICE TO MOST OF THE MAJOR
CITIES IN THE REGION. FREIGHT WOULD PRIMARILY BE
CHILLED BEEF AND OTHER PERISHABLE PRODUCE; SHIPMENTS WOULD
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PAGE 04 EC BRU 03076 292033Z

BE DESTINED MAINLY FOR MIDDLE EAST MARKETS.
INVESTORS ARE CURRENTLY STUDYING THE FEASIBILITY OF
THIS VENTURE.HINTON

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